

One Hundred Third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas Atlantic bluefin tuna are a valuable commercial and recreational fishery of the United States;

Whereas many countries, including the United States, fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), is the international entity established to adopt recommendations and develop international agreements for the conservation and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas in the last 25 years Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks have declined from historic levels;

Whereas, for management purposes, the Commission has adopted a working hypothesis of 2 stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna: a western stock found in the Atlantic Ocean west of 45 degrees west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the "45 degree line"), and an eastern stock found in the Atlantic Ocean east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the existing scientific evidence is inconclusive with respect to the working hypothesis of 2 stocks, the extent to which each of the hypothesized stocks migrates across the 45 degree line is unknown, and the 45 degree line is considered to be arbitrary;

Whereas the Commission adopted conservation and management recommendations in 1974 to ensure the recovery and sustainability of all Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, in recent years, the Commission has adopted additional, more restrictive conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna, for countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas the United States and other countries that are members of the Commission and that fish west of the 45 degree line have implemented all conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas many other countries that are members of the Commission do not comply with conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas this continuing failure to comply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea by countries that are members of the Commission will undermine the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks;

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Whereas recent large increases in the catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna within 100 miles east of the 45 degree line by countries that are members of the Commission could be having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna and probably do not comply with recommendations of the Commission; and Whereas countries that are not members of the Commission are having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks by fishing throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea without regard for conservation and management recommendations adopted by the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) should continue to promote the conservation and management of highly migratory species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna, throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

(2) the United States should obtain commitments through the Commission, from all countries that are signatories to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and that are not in compliance with all of the conservation and management recommendations and agreements for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species that have been adopted by the Commission, that those countries will immediately comply with those recommendations and agreements;

(3) the United States should continue to encourage all other countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna or other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea to comply with the conservation and management recommendations and agreements adopted for those species by the Commission;

(4) if a country fishes in the Atlantic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea for Atlantic bluefin tuna or another highly migratory species without complying with the conservation and management recommendations and agreements adopted by the Commission for that species, such fishing will be considered by the Congress to diminish the effectiveness of an international fishery conservation program, and as such will be considered by the Congress to be certifiable under section 8(a)(1) of the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)(1));

(5) the United States should encourage countries that have significant markets for Atlantic bluefin tuna to prohibit the importation of that species from other countries that fish for that species without regard for the conservation and management recommendations and agreements adopted by the Commission;

(6) the United States should continue to explore, through the Commission, the appropriateness of working hypotheses of the Commission that stocks of highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean can be delineated by lines of latitude or longitude, including specifically that there are 2 stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna delineated by the line 45 degrees west longitude; and

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(7) the United States should seek, through the Commission, an agreement to ensure that if the Commission uses any line to divide the stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna for management purposes and adopts for that stock any conservation and management recommendation or agreement for one side of the line that is more restrictive than the conservation and management recommendations and agreements adopted by the Commission for that stock for the other side of the line, then any fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna within 10 degrees of the line shall be conducted in compliance with that more restrictive recommendation or agreement.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.